

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 28, 2005  
For immediate release

1. New wastewater treatment plant to address problems in Reinbeck
2. DNR asks for news media's participation in beach monitoring survey
3. Solid manure added to DNR manure management form
3. DNR enforcement actions

## **NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS IN REINBECK**

MASON CITY – The new Reinbeck wastewater treatment plant will be operational more than two months ahead of schedule.

Testing of the system began on April 28 when one-half of the treatment process started manual operation. The entire treatment process will begin full automatic operation on May 2.

The plant replaces a facility that was built in 1975 and has had ongoing maintenance and operation problems, including bypasses and sewer back-ups into homes in recent years. The DNR approved construction of a relief sewer, completed in 2002, along with a new plant to correct those problems. Construction of the new plant began in the fall of 2004.

Ongoing problems were followed by a major failure of the existing treatment plant in November of 2004. Of the several options for repairs, the city chose to provide supplemental treatment of wastewater entering Black Hawk Creek until the new facility began to operate.

“To make partial repairs to the existing equipment, the city would have been forced to bypass untreated raw sewage for two to four weeks – repairs with no guarantee that it would work because the system was so old,” said Al Tompkins, an environmental specialist senior with the Mason City DNR field office.

Tompkins added that the DNR has been working with the city to bring the new plant on line quickly and to achieve the best possible supplemental treatment until it is operational. The DNR has also required the city to increase water quality monitoring of the effluent and the stream to two times per week.

“The contractor and the engineer have done a good job of expediting the plant opening which was originally scheduled for July,” said Tompkins. “Construction of the new plant should provide more reliable operation for the future.”

The city’s stream monitoring results show no significant impacts on Black Hawk Creek from carbonaceous biological oxygen demand (CBOD), total suspended solids and ammonia.

Stream monitoring does show some elevated counts for fecal coliform bacteria near where the effluent enters the stream. This is typical of smaller Iowa streams that are not usually designated for swimming and extensive recreational contact. People should avoid letting children or pets wade in Black Hawk Creek right below the treatment plant, Tompkins advised.

**For more information, contact Al Tompkins at 541-424-4073.**

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## **DNR ASKS FOR NEWS MEDIA’S PARTICIPATION IN BEACH MONITORING SURVEY**

DES MOINES — The DNR is asking members of the news media to complete a survey that will help the DNR organize beach monitoring events across the state for the media.

Please answer the following questions and return your responses to Jessie Rolph at [Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us) by Wednesday, May 4. Return your responses in the body of an e-mail by typing the number of the question and then your answer.

1. Would you be interested in attending a media event regarding DNR beach monitoring at one of three or four sites around the state?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. How far would you be willing to travel to attend a media event?

- ☐ 0-25 miles
- ☐ 25-50 miles
- ☐ 50-75 miles
- ☐ 75-100 miles
- ☐ 100-150 miles

3. What type of media are you associated with?

- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Web
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. What city or town are you located in?
5. During past swimming seasons, how often did you report on beach monitoring results (on average)?
  - ☐ Once a week
  - ☐ Once a month
  - ☐ Once or twice during the entire swimming season
  - ☐ Never
6. How big of a concern to your audience are state park beaches' bacteria levels?
  - ☐ Very important
  - ☐ Somewhat important
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Not very important
  - ☐ Not important at all
7. What issues would you like to have addressed at a beach monitoring media event?

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## **SOLID MANURE ADDED TO DNR MANURE MANAGEMENT FORM**

DES MOINES – Poultry producers and other livestock producers who deal with solid manure can now use the MS Excel version of the DNR's manure management plan.

"The advantage of using a spreadsheet version is that it takes much of the calculating out of the form," said Jeremy Klatt, nutrient specialist.

Producers simply need to provide their inputs, and the spreadsheet does all the work. The earlier Excel version of the form could be used only for liquid manure so producers with solid manure had to do their own calculations using the word processing version.

The DNR updated the form in April. The new version can be found in the forms section under animal feeding operations on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

**For more information, contact Jeremy Klatt, at (515) 281-8690.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions between February and March 2005, unless otherwise noted. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Rolph of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

- Dirk D. Graves, of Glenwood, was ordered to cease open burning and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regard to the open burning of house debris at a site in Glenwood which caused large amounts of black smoke and other air pollutants. The order has been appealed.
- In an amended administrative order, Vernon Kinsinger, of Kalona, was ordered to immediately remove all solid waste from his properties in Richmond and Kalona, to provide documentation of proper disposal of the waste, and pay the remaining balance of \$8,130 remaining on a \$10,000 administrative penalty originally assessed in a 1995 order. The order is in regard to ongoing solid waste and air quality violations at open dumpsites in Richmond and Kalona.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Oak Hill Marina, Inc., of Arnolds Park, agreed to pay a \$1,000 penalty to the DNR and a \$2,000 supplemental environmental project (SEP) to the Dickinson County Conservation Board. The order is in regard to improper disposal of demolition debris and asbestos violations at a site north of Milford. The penalty and SEP have been paid.
- Joe Ingham, of Swaledale, and Karen Ingham, of Rockwell, agreed to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regard to open burning and open dumping at a site in Cerro Gordo County. The consent amendment was agreed to in November, and the penalty has been paid.
- Roger Escher, of Washington County, agreed to contact a qualified agency to assist in developing a manure control system for his facility, register his open feedlot with the DNR and submit a written manure control system plan. Escher also agreed to submit a letter to verify that recommendations in the manure control system plan have been implemented, and to pay a \$250 penalty. The original order is in regard to illegal disposal of dead animals. The consent order was agreed to in January, and the penalty has been paid.
- Martin Marietta Materials, Inc., of Raleigh, N.C., agreed in a 2001 consent order to sample and test the mine dewatering discharge of its mine in Fort Dodge at least

semiannually and submit the test results to the DNR. Martin Marietta Materials has conducted the required sampling and testing, and all samples were within acceptable levels. Further sampling and testing of the mine dewatering discharge is no longer necessary. All other requirements of the consent order have been previously satisfied.

**For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us).**